

10 May 1976

Bush - Speech
1029, Washington
Press Club
0891 Lockheed
CIA 107 Bush, George

EXTRACTED:

- Q. The Japanese Government asked for the United States ~~Government~~ of Government to investigate the alleged (word-indistinct) the ~~fact~~ including the relationship between the Lockheed affair and CIA. The State Department has promised the Japanese Government that they would investigate the case. What is your comment?
- A. We'll cooperate fully with the State Department in the investigation of the case.
- Q. What is the state of this investigation?
- A. I would have to refer you to the State Department because it is their investigation and I think it inappropriate for me to say any more on it.

Transcribed from tape which is very noisy.

Houston Press Conference
7 May 1976
Director Bush

Ladies and gentlemen of the Press, television and radio it is a great pleasure to be here with you, we appreciate your coming. The purpose of this meeting is for an interview with The Honorable George Bush, who is the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, he is here for the principal purpose of speaking to the YMCA of greater Houston tonight, we are delighted that the weather is responding, we have about 500 people coming and we are having our annual meeting which will be the 90th held in this city. The YMCA in Houston comprises of 20 different branches, 140,000 people participating, and we are just delighted to have The Honorable George Bush here with us tonight. George

Mr. Bush -- ~~I could~~, I have no prepared statement, be glad to answer questions but there ^{ARE} ~~is~~ a couple of self-imposed ground rules, some of them self-imposed, some of them imposed by the Senate, and one of them is that I cannot and should not, ~~and~~ ^{will not} ~~won't~~ discuss the domestic political situation. This I know will seem somewhat as a shock to some of you here in this room, but I vowed when I was confirmed by the ^{SENATE} ~~Seante~~ that I would not get into domestic politics, the question was properly raised about my political past, and whether this would indeed hamper my objectivity in anyway, ~~and~~ I have indicated to the Senators and I have been very faithful, I think, in adhering to the ^{principle} ~~principal~~ of staying out of

domestic politics, it is hard in some senses but decreasingly hard because my new job is totally absorbing, ~~and~~ I really ^{do not} ~~don't~~ this will surprise Ken Sheeth here and a few others ~~that used to~~ with whom I was around the political circuits some, but I don't even start by looking any more at the political columns, I look at foreign affairs, and sometimes look at what is being said about the Central Intelligence Agency, although I try not to read all of that, ~~because~~, ^{just} but I would ask, that you can try the questions, but I/would simply have to say I am not in a position to respond, ~~and~~ the second thing is I am open for questions about my new job, but there again as I told the association of newspaper editors, in their National Convention in Washington, one of the frustrations of the job is not to be able to speak quite as freely as one would in politics, because there are certain things in intelligence that are properly kept secret, ~~but~~ I welcome your questions and if I can answer them I will try and if I ^{CANNOT} ~~can't~~ I will simply have to respectfully decline. But with those two caveats, let me just say this, because it is my first time home since back from China, I am here because Ed Smith and the others at the YMCA were gracious enough to invite me to speak, I have been interested in the Y as long as I have lived in Houston and I am please^d to be their speaker, I had another reason to come my first grandson is residing happily two-weeks old in Texas and the first chance I have had to see him and besides that ~~X~~ this is still my home and I feel relaxed here. In this job one needs to feel relaxed once in awhile so fire away.....

Q. Mr. Bush before getting into the CIA matters, as the former Envoy to Red China, how do you look upon the current political upheaval going on there?

Mr. Bush -- I would say that in China, ~~there~~ nothing has happened in China in the last couple of months or since I left and there was indeed upheaval, (as you call it) manifested by the demonstration in ^{TIAN AN MEN} ~~the~~men Square, (sp) but we see nothing ~~happening there that nothing~~ that has happened there that is inimical or that is bad for the relationship between the United States and China nor do we see in that upheaval a shift ~~away~~ on China's part towards the Soviet Union, having said that, this is an internal affair of China, the new Premier ^{Hua Kuo-Feng} ~~Wan Phung~~ (sp) has met with foreign leaders, ~~the~~ and I met with ~~the~~ our Congressional delegation that is back from China and we have other people that have visited Chinese leaders not only American's but others and all of them report that the Chinese are still ^{huing} ~~huing~~ to the same political line in terms of foreign affairs, and so what ^{is} happening inside China is ^{their} ~~there~~ internal affair but the thing that matters to the United States in my opinion is that our relationship continues to a) be important in terms of foreign policy and b) continues to be on track.

Q. What is your assessment of the downfall ^{of Tung Shao-ping?} (unintelligible)?

Mr. Bush -- Well, as I say, this is a Chairman Mao talks about a constant struggle and I think that just as we have turmoil in our political ^{scene} ~~seen~~ that must be very confusing to the Chinese from time to time, they have turmoil in their scene

that is sometimes confusing to us, so it does appear that
^{Tung Shao-ping}
~~Dunchepping~~ (sp) is certainly on the sidelines with ^{Hua Kuo-feng}
~~WaWapheong~~ (sp)
being premier, but I think we must look at it not as meddling
or being overly concerned about their internal affairs but
asking ^{the} /key questions about the direction that the Peoples
Republic of China will take and I still feel that the relation-
ship is fundamental. I really enjoyed my 14 months in China
and I ^{do not} ~~don't~~ see anything ~~to~~ in the present situation to change
the direction of their policy.

Q. Mr. Bush do you consider lack of confidence in the CIA
to be an important matter in the nature of this Agency
(unintelligible)

Mr. Bush -- Well, I am not sure how much confidence is
lacking in the CIA. Clearly ~~some~~ things were wrong over several
administrations, over quite a few years. I believe those things
have been corrected. I believe the abuses of the past are indeed
in the past, my predecessor took administrative action, the
President took executive action, the Congress is in the process
of taking legislative action. I hope that all the abuses of the
past are indeed behind us. I think the American people support
the concept of a strong intelligence agency and if they don't
they better because we are living in an extremely troubled world.
Now having said that, I would recognize that the image of the
Central Intelligence Agency is not what it should be
because of the disclosure, because of some real abuses, and
because of many alleged abuses that just ^{just} ~~don't~~ happen to be true.

But I ~~don't~~^{NOT} know what one can do about it. I am trying to run the Central Intelligence Agency firmly but with a sense of appreciation for the enormous assets that are there. I recognize the importance of the Central Intelligence Agency to the country. When I look around the world that based on my own foreign policy experience, and so I ~~don't~~^{NOT} really know what one can do, you cannot put an image, public relations image gloss on it. many of the great accomplishments of the Central Intelligence Agency must indeed remain secret because of sources and methods of achieving these accomplishments, ~~Whereas~~ all of the things that have gone wrong or lots of them have been exposed, and so it is like you ~~are~~^{ARE} reporting on all the banks that weren't^{NOT} robbed today. Nobody~~s~~ is interested in that, they are interested in the bank robbery not the hundreds and thousands of banks that weren't^{NOT} robbed. So our accomplishments and they are many, are not vividly reported because they are not releaseable. So I think the Agency is ⁱⁿ good shape, and I think we have the basic confidence of the American people. I think we still have to be aware that we are living in a constitutional system and that we must be responsive to the people and that means more disclosure to the Congress, more cooperation with the Committee's of Congress, but it also means to me that you cannot conduct an intelligence agency, you cannot have, cannot conduct it totally in the open, ~~something's~~ must remain secret but I am determined to report very closely to the Congress and I am determined also to defend the Agency and I am also determined that if I find things wrong to clear^N them up.

Q. Did you anticipate that the publicity ^{given} ~~of~~ the CIA
(unintelligible)

Mr. Bush -- I hope not, just as the people seem to be recognizing and thus the Congress seems to be supporting budget levels suggested by the President for defense. I hope that the Congress will support budget levels as suggested by the President for ~~/~~Intelligence. Intelligence is a vital part of our national security and I ~~don't~~ ^{NOT} see any effort widespread effort to cut our budget, our budget has been carefully screened. I have presented it to, in absolute total detail, I might add to both the House and to the Senate, both the CIA budget and the Intelligence Community budget which includes many other components besides CIA for which I have responsibility and I think the Congress is going to be fair with us. I think they recognize the need for a strong capability and I don't think we have got fat in the intelligence budget.

~~Mr. Bush -- Yes~~

Q. Mr. Bush ~~is~~ was revealed earlier that the FBI spent up to seven and one half million dollars on salary ~~INFORMANTS~~
(unintelligible)

would you say that the CIA performance are maintained surveillance on American people (unintelligible)

Mr. Bush -- Well, there have been some allegations of surveillance, some ~~proved~~ allegations I might add of surveillance of Americans in the past, but let me be very clear ~~there is~~ that is not happening in the present and thus any figure of that nature would not be applicable to the present activities

of the Central Intelligence Agency. We do have some domestic operations, they are very open, people come back for business trips and they are debriefed and I hope people will continue to cooperate with the CIA, but in terms of domestic surveillance we are not in that business and I am determined to see that we ~~do not~~ ^{not} get into that business. there was a period in the past where apparently some of that was done, it is wrong and we are not going to do it.

Q. (Unintelligible) ^{that were brought out} in the revelations/in the Senate Hearings that caused you to make your massive reorganization (unintelligible)

Mr. Bush -- Well most of the President's executive order issued a couple of months ago really ~~pre-empted~~ ^{pre-empted} most of the recommendations of the Senate Committee and I am in the process of putting into effect many of the major organizational changes called for under the Executive Order, for example, we now have two deputies, we now have a new Oversight Board with which the Central Intelligence Agency will communicate, we are in the process of enlarging our Inspector General's ~~staff~~ ^{staff} to see that abuses ~~do not~~ ^{not} take place in the future. we are expanding our General Counsel office, we are indeed doing more through the Committee on Foreign Intelligence of which I am the Chairman to get resource control to get a hold of the intelligence budget for the first time incidentally, since the 1947 act, now there are other suggestions in the Senate Report and there are other things in the Executive Order, but I sight these things as things that were touched on in the Executive Order, I mean in the Senate Report, the things that have been implemented by Executive Order.

so I didn't read the Executive Order and then say well, there is an awful lot of corrective action to be taken, a lot of it had been done in fairness to my predecessor, by Bill Colby through administrative dictum, you might say, inside the CIA itself, thou shalt nots, we call them, staying out of the domestic surveillance business, and that kind of thing, ~~so~~ I don't see as a result of the Senate Committee Report a tremendous amount of administrative action that needs to be taken by the Director. I haven't read the whole report, ^{I have} read its conclusions, and studied some of it and I have looked at it very carefully because there are some good suggestions in it, there are some things in it however that we don't agree with. ~~and~~ we are going and we will follow the law, we will implement whatever is passed by law, but where we disagree, we will have to run this executive agency the way we think best, sensitive to the Senate will, but not necessarily changing policies that we disagree with until the law is changed, and then we will of course very carefully follow the law.

(unintelligible)
Q. ~~the~~ the Central Intelligence Agency tell you to do the job you think it should, would (unintelligible) ^{include} oversight it now has?

Mr. Bush -- Yes, I think it can, but Congressional Oversight has two sides to it, one side is that the Central Intelligence Agency should indeed make Congress a partner as consumers of intelligence, and things like budget, we should disclose and disclose fully to our Oversight ~~Committee~~ ^{prepared} and we are ~~prepared~~ to do that, the other side of it however, is that if Congress is going to receive highly classified information from the Director of

Central Intelligence then they are going to have to protect that, they are going to have to protect secrecy. You cannot conduct a secret intelligence business out in the open and the people must have confidence in their members of Congress with whom I will give full cooperation to the properly identified committees, but those committees are going to have to protect the secrets, and I think for the most part, and certainly since I have been there, there have not been any disastrous leaks from the Committees and I am hopeful that this is a good sign for the future. But it is a two-way street. I feel compelled to cooperate with Congress but I feel that Congress must cooperate with the Intelligence Agency and not spill our secrets all over the street, ~~because~~ because people can die as a result of that, protection of names for example is a fundamental part of my obligation under the law, protection of sources and methods is clearly spelled out under the 1947 Act and I am going to do it, but I am going to try ~~as~~ my best to cooperate with the Congress through oversight. Next week the Senate will incidentally be debating the Oversight Bill and this will have a major impact on how we conduct ourselves. Let me give you a figure on cooperation with Congress, ~~cause~~ ^{because} I hope you will think this is a startling figure, I do, cause it comes out of my time and out of my body in a sense, I have made 19 official appearances on Capital Hill in the last 3 months, now each one of those requires pre-briefing, each one of those requires a good deal of study. I think that demonstrates cooperation by the Director of Central Intelligence with the Congress it also demonstrates

an awful lot of time used, so we are favoring the President is taking a strong position in favor of consolidated oversight and that ^{is} ~~it~~ what I would like to see come out of the Senate and House deliberations.

Q. I think the public at large is somewhat surprised to learn about Cuba's military (unintelligible).

Would you be in a position to comment about whether the Government or any part of the Government was similarly surprised (unintelligible) Angola.

Mr. Bush -- I think, Well, ~~If~~ I say surprised that might connote that we didn't know about the Cuban presence when it happened, we didn't know the intentions, if you had said to me Kissinger used a figure I believe 13-15,000 Cubans in Africa. if you had said to me, before that presence, you know, tell me do you think that is going to be that many, I am not sure I would have said yes, we do know how many Cubans are there we think we do through intelligence, ~~and~~ so I would think that the American people have been surprised and I certainly think some of the policy makers have been surprised at the size of the Cuban commitment in Angola and the wide spread nature of the Cuban commitment in other African countries, ~~but~~ I don't think this is one where we were "caught by surprise" as an intelligence community. Part of the problem with intelligence is figuring intention and it is not easy and sometimes, I will confess, that we ~~can't~~ ^{can't} clearly read the intentions of another power.

Q. Is it felt now that that intention is perhaps more clear than it was for your Agency?

Mr. Bush -- I think now, of course after the fact it is quite clear that they intended ^Q maybe increasing their role? I don't know -- we are unclear on what they intended to do, Dr. Kissinger on the policy side addressed himself to this on his African trip, suggesting it ought to be Africans for the Africans without this kind of intervention but beyond that it is very hard for me to predict, I do have some feeling, some of which are classified as to what they might do next, but I would certainly concur on the policy side with Dr. Kissinger's statement about feeling that this is not conducive to peaceful settlement to problems on the continent.

Q. Have there been any tighter measures taken on the overseas side to prevent U.S. agencies like we are having -- (unintelligible)

Mr. Bush -- To Welch, well it is hard to take preventive action. Our laws are very loose in this regard, ~~it~~ we have done a few things operationally that we hope will protect Americans serving abroad for the CIA, but it is hard when you have people bent on the destruction of the Central Intelligence Agency through the disclosure or certainly causing grief to the Agency through the disclosure of names, it is very hard to prevent that kind of activity, particularly abroad, and CIA names have ^{been} printed, some right and some wrong I might add, which also seems a little unfair / in various countries around the world, ~~and~~ it is a matter that troubles me enormously. I think anybody who would print the name of a Central Intelligence ^{Agent} ~~Agency~~ knowing this would put his life in jeopardy is, well, I would ~~to~~ be careful of my use of adjectives, but I am just appalled at

that kind of behavior and yet I must say it is very difficult to control that kind of irresponsible action.

Are there any others?

Q. Could I just mention you to speak a little bit about the Congressional Control of the CIA (unintelligible)

Mr. Bush -- Well, I think Congress must be a partner in the consumption of intelligence, we prepare intelligence reports and we ~~make~~ provide those to Congress and if they are going to be involved in foreign policy as much as Congress seems to want to be today, and seems to be today, they should have good information to base their decisions on. I plan to cooperate with the Congress, indeed in 90 days, I have been up to the hill for 19, I believe it is, official appearances there, and I hope that demonstrates full cooperation. We present our ^{budget} to the Hill in total detail, to the Congress, but just as we plan as an Agency to cooperate, I think, I must insist as Director of Central Intelligence that Congress protect the legitimate secrets of the Intelligence Community. So it is a two-way street and I am prepared to walk down it with the Congress.

Mr. Bush -- Any others?

I don't know if you can answer this question or not but is Ronald Reagan particularly well informed on the Panel on (unintelligible)

Mr. Bush -- I can't answer, I can't answer that one, I would hate to think, you to think, that I run out of ideas on that subject, but I really must stick to the my restriction about staying out of politics. I gotta do it. I like my job, I

want to keep it, and I don't want to cast kind of a question mark over by even speculating on a question which has foreign policy or certainly intelligence connotations, but I am going to duck it.

Q. This is one other question that might fall under that same umbrella -- would some years hence your tenure as Director of CIA hurt your political credibility with regard to the viability of the candidate at some future date.

Mr. Bush -- Well, you know, when I -- well the question I would have to say yes -- certainly -- I have no other plans and I must say this job is totally fascinating and it is totally time consuming, and you know, it is just, its my whole life. It is my whole professional life right now, and I have no plans beyond this obviously but if you would rephrase the question, you say ^{do} you think there is a political plus in being Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, I would have to say no. Just as I did when I ~~was~~ testified before the Senate Committee ^{AND} ~~as~~ was asked the same question, but I have gotten to think, that the job is important, I believe in the Agency, it is important that the people understand the quality of the people in our Agency, it is important to the degree we can discuss it that people understand our mission. It is important to me with my interest in foreign policy that this country be strong in this field of intelligence. my 14 months in China taught me a little bit about what we are up against because I saw through the Chinese side you might side, ^{their} ~~there~~ conception of the Soviet threat, and now I have had a chance to see it through the

intelligence side and I am concerned frankly, ~~and~~ ^{this} is important work and so I don't think about a political future or past, I will make kind of a hometown confession that I hope doesn't sound corny, cause it just happens to be just as true as it can be -- I haven't been here since I left for China and I must say Houston looked pretty good to me and maybe it is because of some of the climate ~~in~~ today and maybe it is because some of the climate that swirls around us we are dealing with charge and countercharge alot in my job and say each road where I have a lot out there looked pretty inviting. So I will be back here but it probably won't be in any political capacity and in the meantime I am totally ~~enthralled~~ ^{enthralled} with this job, it is unbelievable challenging and interesting.

One more brief question: You have said that you enjoy your job and the Directorship of the Central INtelligence Agency (unintelligible)

There is some what of ^{a political upheaval} (unintelligible) this may be jumping head long into --

Mr. Bush -- Go ahead try it --

There seems to be an area of political upheaval on both sides of the parties, Democratic and Republican, President Ford is falling behind in numbers of delegates, ^{Governor} ~~General~~ Carter is leading the Democratic bundle, do you worry about keeping your job for very much longer? (Laughter)

Mr. Bush -- Well, there isn't any job security in being Director of the CIA for a lot of reasons but I don't worry about that -- look I am I didn't worry about job security when

I was in China, I served at the pleasure of the President and I was riding my bicycle on a Sunday morning that I will never forget, I get a telegram that says look I want you to come back and be head of the CIA. We weren't ready to leave China in the sense of having had it and yet I did it that is my inculcated in to me by my father, a certain sense of service, and I approach it that way, but I am not going to worry about the future in that sense, I serve at the pleasure of the President when this President or the next President is elected I will offer my resignation and they can take it or leave it, what ever they want, in the meantime I have the kind of inner strength and thrill in serving my country in what I think is got to be one of the two or three most fascinating job in government, and I like it and I am glad to be there. In spite of all the problems and we got plenty and thanks for coming down.